further action for provision of telephones has been initiated separately. These phones will be installed progressively on priority subject to technical feasibility.

Telephone Exchanges under C-DOT System

617. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges in the country provided under the C-Dot system;

(b) whether this system has been cheap and successful for rural areas; and

(c) if so, the total number of telephone exchanges likely to be provided under this system during the current financial year?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) 2,343 as on 30-6-91.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) About 2,500.

[*English*]

Day and Night Telegraph Offices in Thane District of Maharashtra

618. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce day and night telegraph offices in Kalyan, Dombivali, Thane, Ambernath, Murbad, Badlapur cities of Thane district in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the number of people expected to be benefited therefrom; and

(c) the financial implications involved in implementing the proposal?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Day and Night Telegraph Service is already available at Thane. At other places, though regular service is available for restricted hours, booking of telegrams with late fee is available outside working hours. No change in this arrangement is proposed to be made.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Telephone Service in Bombay

619. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Normalcy by July 1: MTNL" appearing in Indian Express dated June 27, 1991;

(b) if so, the total number of telephones which are still out of order; and

(c) the time by which complete normalcy in this regard is likely to be restored?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As on 22nd July, 1991, all the telephones which went faulty due to the heavy rains in early June, 1991 have been restored.

Waiting List for Telephone Connections in Maharashtra

620. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applicants on waiting list provided telephone connections during the last two years in Thane district of Maharashtra;

(b) the time by which the waiting list is likely to be cleared; and

(c) the number of applicants on waiting lists for telephone connections in Nasik and Dhule districts of Maharashtra till date?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) During the last 2 years (90-91 & 89-90) a total of 19787 applicants have been provided telephone connections.

(b) the present waiting list is likely to be cleared progressively by March, 1995.